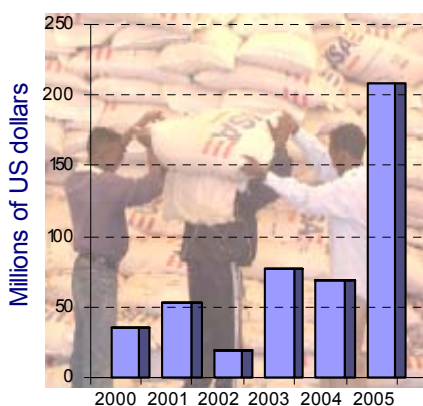




Food Aid and Non-food Humanitarian Assistance

The United States is by far the largest donor of food assistance to Eritrea. Overall, United States food aid benefits about 1.9 million Eritreans, either directly through daily rations or in other forms like irrigation projects. USAID/Eritrea coordinates all US food assistance to Eritrea and most of its humanitarian assistance. There are two main food aid programs. The largest is called Food for Peace (FFP), which in 2004 provided more than 144,000 metric tons (MT) of various commodities for relief and development programs, valued at around \$60 million. FFP is managed by USAID, while the second program, Food for Progress, is a U.S. Department of Agriculture program negotiated and managed by USAID/Eritrea. In 2004, Food for Progress provided 22,700 MT of wheat. This year, the value of both programs is increasingly dramatically. While the final figures will not be available for several months, it is certain that in 2005 total food contributions from the United States will more than double, to an estimated 395,000 MT, valued at around \$200 million.

US Humanitarian Assistance to Eritrea, 2000 - 2005



USAID/Eritrea collaborates with local and international NGOs, the World Food Program (WFP), and several government entities to ensure that assistance gets to beneficiaries throughout Eritrea. All work is done in close coordination with the Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) for direct food dis-

tributions, and the Eritrean Grain Board (EGB) for programs involving the sale of commodities. The EGB buys some food aid commodities to ensure a consistent supply of staples in the market place, and to generate the funds that implementing partners use for their own development activities.

About two-thirds of the food imported by the United States is passed on to WFP, which has a well established and efficient system for receiving, transporting, storing, and distributing the different types of food commodities. WFP has regional offices and storage facilities in Anseba, Debub, Gash Barka, and Northern Red Sea – Barentu/Keren/Massawa/Mendefera.

Our NGO partners that implement food aid projects are Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Mercy Corps International (MCI), Africare, and Samaritan's Purse. CRS and MCI are transitioning from emergency relief programs to programs that also emphasize long-term development. While these programs contain relief components, like supplemental feeding, they also allow CRS and MCI to conduct development activities like water supply and irrigation projects, nutrition education for maternal and child health, girls stay-in-school and health initiatives, and support to veterinary service networks. These projects are designed to help communities protect and rebuild their livelihoods, and thereby reduce their reliance on emergency relief in the future. Africare is putting food aid resources into a five year development project in Naro that will build a spate irrigation system and conduct growth monitoring and promotion. Our newest partner in Eritrea is Samaritan's Purse, which was recently approved to provide relief assistance to 30,000 beneficiaries as part of their larger cross-border emergency program in Sudan.

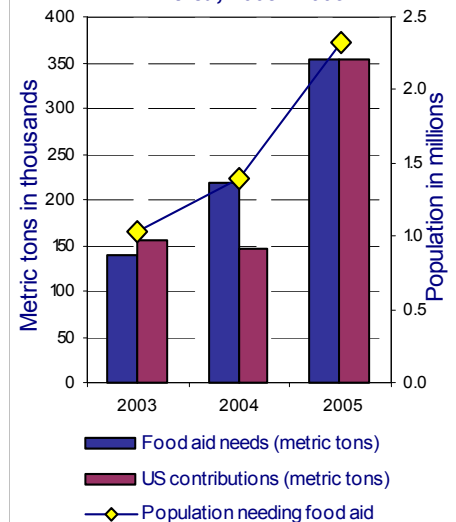
USDA's Food for Progress program supports three development projects that are implemented and administered by the Ministries of Agriculture, National Development, Agriculture, and Local Government. These include agricultural, dairy and irrigation compo-



Food aid distribution in Debub zone.

Another USAID office that is active in Eritrea is the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), which responds to natural disasters around the world. With Eritrea suffering through long term drought, OFDA provided \$3.2 million last year to various projects aimed at restoring household food security and providing reliable and clean water. Examples include providing chicks to women-headed households, drilling boreholes, rehabilitating urban water systems, providing hygiene and sanitation training, and conducting seed fairs. Several new projects in irrigation and the provision of agricultural inputs such as seeds and tools are under consideration for this year.

Metric Tons of US Food Aid to Eritrea, 2003 - 2005



Building Capacity for Clinical Care of HIV and AIDS

USAID/Eritrea is working with the Ministry of Health to put into place a long-term plan for advanced clinical care and treatment of people living with HIV and AIDS. This activity is being implemented by Family Health International (FHI). In addition to developing a policy framework and training plan, USAID/Eritrea is helping to train and mentor HIV/AIDS clinical care teams consisting of doctors, nurses, nurse-counselors, pharmacists, and laboratory technicians to provide holistic care and support to individual pa-

tients and their families. Since July 2004, more than 60 health professionals have participated in a series of specialized and refresher trainings on opportunistic infections, antiretroviral therapy (ART) and treatment adherence counseling.

To help build Eritrea's own capacity to provide full clinical HIV/AIDS services, USAID/Eritrea, through FHI, is providing technical assistance to train a core group of ten master trainers who will be fully competent in-country trainers, supervisors and mentors in the advanced clinical man-

agement of patients with HIV and AIDS. In May and June 2005, four of these master trainers completed a two-week clinical study tour of comprehensive care and ART programs in Kenya. This month, these master trainers will have a chance to practice their new skills and advance their knowledge when they train a new batch of HIV/AIDS clinical care providers. At the completion of this training, Eritrea will have in place the capacity to train and supervise health care providers in advanced clinical management of HIV/AIDS.

USAID Supports Horticultural Training

With Eritrean horticulture evolving from subsistence levels to commercially-oriented small-scale farmers, who now produce most of the fresh perishable produce in Eritrea, there is strong demand among producers for technical knowledge to expand production and improve efficiency. In March the Ministry of Agriculture organized and conducted a one-month training program in temperate fruit production techniques, attracting 20 students, including extension agents from the Ministry of Agriculture and lead private farmers.



Trainees examine an enhanced variety of apple tree at a recent horticultural training.

Horticultural experts from the University of Asmara and the Ministry of Agriculture carried out this on-farm training program. Extension agents and farmers learned plant and nursery management for temperate fruit crops (apple, peach, plum, etc.) and practiced a variety of propagation techniques, including grafting from mother trees and rootstocks. The project also trained the applicators of pesticides in safe storage, handling, application and disposal techniques.

USAID Contributes Computers to the Rural Enterprise Unit (REU)

USAID/Eritrea recently delivered six used computers to the Rural Enterprise Unit in support of the USAID-funded Rural Enterprise Investment Program, which provides loan packaging and business development services to a variety of beneficiaries throughout Eritrea. The six Pentium III computers will replace the REU's outdated computers and enable the installation of a new computerized management and information system (MIS) for more effective

monitoring and evaluation of lending activities.



USAID/Eritrea and Rural Enterprise Unit staff members in front of new computers which will enhance REU's monitoring and evaluation capacity.

A Malaria Early Warning System for Eritrea

Eritrea's National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) with support from USAID is creating new techniques that will use rainfall estimates and changes in vegetation derived from remotely sensed images to better predict where and when malaria outbreaks may occur. A new project will help the malaria control program to forecast, detect, and pre-

vent or control malaria epidemics at village level by strengthening malaria epidemic preparedness and response capability within the country. A key feature of the project is 21 sentinel sites located throughout the country that will monitor rainfall, the presence of mosquito larvae and the adult insects that transmit the parasite, and malaria morbidity.